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Consultation Document

Guidance for substance misuse education

Date of issue: **4 July 2012**

Action required: Responses by **26 September 2012**

Guidance for substance misuse education

Overview	<p>The Welsh Government is consulting on the proposed replacement to <i>Substance Misuse: Children and Young People</i> National Assembly for Wales Circular No: 17/02.</p> <p>The draft guidance provides detailed information relating to the delivery of appropriate substance misuse education (SME) according to curriculum requirements and specific need, and substance misuse incident management including support, legislation and good practice.</p>
How to respond	<p>Response forms should be e-mailed/posted to the address below by 26 September 2012 at the latest (please insert 'SME consultation' in the subject matter box).</p>
Further information and related documents	<p>Large print, Braille and alternate language versions of this document are available on request.</p> <p>The consultation documents can be accessed from the Welsh Government's website at www.wales.gov.uk/consultations</p>
Contact details	<p>For further information: Support for Learners Division Department for Education and Skills Welsh Government Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ</p> <p>e-mail: SubstanceMisuse2012@wales.gsi.gov.uk</p>
Data protection	<p>How the views and information you give us will be used</p> <p>Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.</p> <p>The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.</p>

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.

Introduction

The Welsh Government is consulting on the proposed replacement to *Substance Misuse: Children and Young People* National Assembly for Wales Circular No: 17/02.

What are the main issues?

It is now 10 years since the existing guidance, *Substance Misuse: Children and Young People* National Assembly for Wales Circular No: 17/02, was issued. This new version is therefore designed to provide better and more up-to-date guidance for schools and others on how to develop a fully integrated, multi-agency approach to help prevent substance misuse by children, young people and vulnerable families. The new draft was developed in conjunction with a working group of practitioners, but before it is issued we would like to take views from a wider audience.

Where are we now?

The current document, [Substance Misuse: Children and Young People National Assembly for Wales Circular No: 17/02](#), provides good practice guidance for organisations in the statutory, voluntary and independent sectors that offer educational opportunities to children and young people.

What are we proposing?

Circular No: 17/02 set the agenda for action on substance misuse up to 2008; this new version supersedes this by reflecting the many changes within the curriculum.

The guidance aims to:

- explain the context for substance misuse education (SME) in Wales
- assist with developing a substance misuse policy
- clarify the legal requirements
- promote learner participation in the development and review of substance misuse policy and SME provision
- outline strategies for learning and teaching SME effectively
- provide guidance on managing incidents
- identify sources of support.

The Welsh Government would welcome your views in relation to the accompanying draft guidance.